PRESS RELEASE

The USAID project that installed computers in all of Macedonia's primary and secondary schools comes to an end

The USAID e-Schools project, which has enabled the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in Macedonian schools, comes to an end on March 31, 2008. U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic and other high USAID and government officials recognized the project's achievements and lasting legacy at a closing ceremony on March 21st at the Aleksandar Palace Hotel.

Since 2003, the $8.1 million e-Schools project has provided basic ICT infrastructure in primary and secondary schools by installing 6,000 computers and 460 servers donated by the Chinese Government. The project trained over 10,000 teachers to integrate ICT into the curriculum, created the first educational web portal in Macedonia, www.schools.edu.mk, and developed digital content for supplemental online materials for teaching chemistry. The project also developed the very first educational software "ToolKID" in Macedonian and Albanian, and trained over 2,300 K-4 teachers on its use.

"These impressive accomplishments fit well with the Ministry of Education and Science projects like 'A Computer for Every Child'," said U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic at the closing ceremony, "The Government of Macedonia is committed to modernizing education. A very important aspect of this commitment includes government efforts to sustain the results of USAID initiatives in the education sector. "

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly $500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit http://macedonia.usaid.gov.